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A MODERN HISTORY  
OF THE KURDS

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monarchs as far as Kangavar. But when he saw the British attack and heard that garrisons had been sent to districts well over 1000 km away, he was so outraged that he began to flee in the direction of Shah Khankhan's domain and in the spring the Khan had to resign.

### Turkey, Russia and Iran's North

There was constant mutual suspicion between Russia and Britain over the fate of the country. Few then had seen that their shared interest in Iran, which Britain probably believed would not offend, approved the presence of Russian troops along the Tigr and Shatagh, moving down to the Tigr. Then, as the last efforts the Russians began to show greater concern, with the depth of mutual suspicion again rising as over the Tigr and Shatagh in their policies.

Istanbul shared Tehran's apprehensions concerning Russian designs. Like Tehran, it feared that Russia was likely to occupy Iranian Azarbaijan. In that case the Porte wanted to ensure it had secured sites of tactical importance along the ill-defined border. But any pre-emptive action had always been inhibited by the fear that it would precipitate Russian intervention. By 1906, however, Turkey felt able to act while Russia was distracted by its humiliating defeat at the hands of Japan and its internal political turmoil. It made a series of minor incursions, laying claim to and then seizing one customs post after another. In May 1906 its troops occupied Margavar and Dasht. In June and October it seized Sardasht and Ushnaviya respectively. Its actions seemed justified first by Russian moves in 1906 to protect its interests in northern Azarbaijan, and then by the Anglo-Russian agreement of 1907 whereby the two Powers delineated Iran into spheres of influence. All Iranian Kurdistan fell within Russia's orbit.<sup>27</sup>